



State of Utah

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## Department of Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson  
Executive Director

Brad T Johnson  
Deputy Director

L. Scott Baird  
Deputy Director

## NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

### CONTACT

Donna Kemp Spangler  
Communications Director  
Office: 801-536-4484  
Cell: 801-554-4944  
[dspangler@utah.gov](mailto:dspangler@utah.gov)

## DEQ Media Availability, Harmful Algal Blooms

**What:** The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has been coordinating with multiple agencies and groups to protect the public from the potential dangers of harmful algal blooms found this time of year.

Harmful algal blooms occur when naturally occurring cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, quickly multiply to high densities and form visible water discoloration, scums, and/or mats. Blooms typically appear during the summer when abundant sunlight and warm, stagnant water mix with high nutrient levels from agriculture and urban runoff. Although most algal blooms are not toxic, some types of cyanobacteria can harm people, pets, livestock and wildlife.

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and DEQ developed a multi-tier approach to public health advisories that align with national and international guidelines. This is an opportunity to learn more about the issue, what agencies are doing about it, and have experts on hand to answer questions.

**Who:** Water Quality Director Erica Gaddis, Jodi Gardberg, manager of Harmful Algal Bloom Program and Ben Holcomb, coordinator of Harmful Algal Bloom Program  
Michele Deras, Division of Drinking Water  
Nathan LaCross, epidemiologist UDOH  
Barbara Crouch, executive director of Utah Poison Control Center  
Local health department public information officers  
Utah Lake Commission

**When:** 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 7, 2018

**Where:** Multi Agency State Office Building, 195 North 1950 West, DEQ Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

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### About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah's air, land and water through balanced regulation. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.